

REMARKS

Applicant submits herewith replacement drawings depicting Figs. 10-14 which have been designated by the legend "Prior Art". It is believed that the formal drawings presented herewith comply fully with 37 CFR 1.83(a).

Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 2 is found, *inter alia*, in Figure 2 and on page 15, lines 1-9 of the specification.

The present invention is directed to a fuel pump comprising a casing and a substantially disc-shaped impeller rotating within the casing, as recited in amended claims 1-9 of this application.

The rejection of claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Watanabe et al. (US 4,478,550) is respectfully traversed. The rejection of claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Murase et al. (WO 99/07990) is also respectfully traversed.

The cited references do not disclose or suggest Applicants' invention as presently claimed.

Watanabe et al. and Murase et al. do not disclose or suggest a fuel pump (i) wherein a groove directly communicating with the discharge hole is connected to the discharge hole via an escape groove extending obliquely radially outwardly in the direction of rotation of the impeller, and wherein (ii) the escape groove does not protrude radially beyond the outer circumference face of the impeller, as recited in claim 1 and claims dependent thereon.

In contrast, the fuel pumps described by Watanabe et al. and Murase et al. have a large clearance between the outer circumference of the impeller and the inner circumference of the casing of the discharge hole. A consequence of this large clearance is that it causes an

impact between the fuel pressurized in the discharge hole side groove and the fuel passed to the upper side of the impeller via the large clearance.

For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections over Watanabe et al. and Murase et al. are unsustainable, and withdrawal of the rejections is urged.

Applicant submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance and early notice of such action is earnestly solicited. If any final points remain that can be clarified by telephone, Examiner White is respectfully encouraged to contact Applicants' attorney at the number indicated below.

Applicant hereby petitions the Commissioner for Patents to extend the time for reply to the notice dated September 9, 2005 for three (3) months from December 9, 2005, to March 9, 2006. A duly completed credit card authorization form is attached to effect payment of the extension fee.

Respectfully submitted



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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please replace the drawing sheets depicting Figs. 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14 currently on file with the formal replacement sheets submitted herewith.